GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1210
ANSWERED ON:09.02.2017
Distribution of Natural Resources
Rathwa Shri Ramsinh Patalyabhai

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating any constitutional scheme to ensure that natural resources are so distributed that generations to come are not left without natural resources of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 has been amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 which, inter alia, provides for grant of mineral concessions through auction by competitive bidding which is a transparent and non-discriminatory manner for allocation of mineral resources and one which meets the twin constitutional objectives i.e., one, the distribution of mineral resources that vest in the State is to sub-serve the common good and, two, the allocation is not violative of Article 14 of the Constitution of India.

Further, clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 5 of the MMDR Act stipulates that a mining lease is granted by the State Government only if there is a duly approved mining plan which, inter alia, contains a plan for mining to ensure that the mining is done in a scientific manner for optimal utilization of the mineral resources.

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